

# AUGUST

at the  
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

## AUGUST MEETING

Date: Wednesday, August 17, 8:15 p.m.  
Place: Morrison Auditorium  
Speaker: Donald H. Fry, Jr.  
Subject: "STUDYING FISHERIES IN AN EAST AFRICAN GAME PARK"

Mr. Fry is a marine biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game. He was invited recently by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to make a study of the fisheries of Lake George, Uganda, Africa, which borders on Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Being by avocation an animal photographer, Mr. Fry took full advantage of the year which he and his family spent living in the village of Kasenyi where hippopotami and elephants paid frequent visits to their nearby garden and where fish eagles usually heralded the day.

This program of color slides is an interesting record of animal life in Western Uganda as Mr. Fry saw it. And, as you will see, the opportunities offered him to use his camera were rare and many. (Members and guests)

## MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"MYSTERIES OF THE MOON" continues through Labor Day, September 5. Record crowds attest to this astronomy "spectacular" and its simulated trip to the moon. Performances daily, Tuesday through Sunday, at 2:15, 3:30 and 8:30 p.m. with an extra matinee at 1:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. (Adults, 75¢, Juniors, 40¢)

Coming, September 7: "PACIFIC FESTIVAL OF STARS"

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"MADAGASCAR EXPEDITION", the enlightening record of Dr. Edward S. Ross' recent trip, will be on display in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature through the month of August. Coming, September 4: "THE ALASKAN ESKIMO".

"PAINTINGS OF SPACE", executed by David Porrazzo of the Planetarium staff, serve as an artistic adjunct to the current show in Morrison Planetarium. On display through Labor Day.

"SCIENCE IN ACTION" returns to the air September 12.

# NEWS and NOTES . . . . .

Dr. and Mrs. G. Dallas Hanna of the Department of Geology, in company with Mr. K. K. Bechtel, Trustee of the Academy, recently returned to San Francisco after a month of work, study and research in various parts of Alaska.

The initial goal was St. Paul Island where Dr. Hanna was particularly interested in checking upon the geological changes which have occurred during the past 40 years since he was last there on similar research work. While there, it was possible to collect numerous fossils from sedimentary exposures below the lava of the island. And too, it offered a poignant opportunity to install a bronze plaque upon the last resting place of Dr. and Mrs. George Haley, who at one time were schoolteachers on the Pribilof Islands. Dr. Haley, for many years prior to his death, was closely associated with the Academy.

After St. Paul, much time was spent in making visits to various libraries and museums in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Sitka, where Mr. Bechtel's family joined the party.

Before returning, a visit was paid to Glacier Bay to observe the biological rehabilitation of several islands and other areas which have recently been bared of ice due to the recession of Muir and other glaciers.

Tuesday, July 19 was Graduation Day for 65 members of the recently-completed course in "Celestial Navigation" which was offered by the Department of Astronomy. The success of the initial course has prompted the Department to schedule a similar series of lectures for Spring, 1961.

A gift of one of the largest private collections of shells on the Pacific Coast has come to the Academy through the generosity of the collector, Mr. Andrew Sorensen of Pacific Grove. A world-wide collection, it is rich in shells and other invertebrates and includes much valuable and spectacular material.

In addition to an unusual series of specimens from Japan and a vast amount of material collected in the Monterey Bay region, Mr. Sorensen contributed a fine library of books on shells and shell collecting.

The J. W. Mailliard, Jr., Library has made an important and significant addition to its growing collection of literature on Baja California. Through money made available by the Belvedere Scientific Fund, the library has purchased its first old map of the area, printed in Mexico in 1825, "Carta Esférica de las Costas y Golfo de Californias". The original mapping was done by the Spanish Navy.

Dr. J. Dan Webster of Hanover College, Indiana, and a Research Associate in the Academy's Department of Birds and Mammals, spent the month of July at the Academy furthering a research project on Grace and Olive Warblers.

For over a period of two years, Benjamin H. Banta of Pomona College has been acquiring material in the Saline Valley of Inyo County in connection with an extensive research project on reptiles and amphibians. As a result of his labors, he has presented the Academy with approximately 4,000 specimens which constitute possibly the most thoroughly representative and documented collection ever made in an isolated valley of the Great Basin.

In addition to the reptiles, Mr. Banta also gathered numerous insects and arthropods as well as numbers of mammals, all of which will be incorporated in other Academy collections.

Members who live within driving distance of the Academy will be receiving an invitation to an Open House which is scheduled for the evening of August 29 from 7:30 to 9:30. Planned for this informal gathering are special demonstrations in Morrison Planetarium, motion pictures in Morrison Auditorium, and conducted tours of Steinhart Aquarium.

Guests will be afforded the opportunity to meet and talk with members of the staff over a cup of coffee. We hope, if geography and time permit, that as many members as possible will attend.

(More NEWS AND NOTES on reverse.)



## Meet the Staff



ROBERT DEMPSTER, Associate Curator of Aquatic Biology, Steinhart Aquarium, had every intention of becoming a professional musician during his growing-up years in Granger, Washington. However, his violin was shunted to one side when zoology entered his life. His B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Washington attest to the importance of the change.

It was at the University where Bob met a man who was to play an important role in his destiny, for Dr. Robert C. Miller, Director of the Academy, was his major professor. In 1941, Dr. Miller invited him to join the staff of the Academy, and Bob has been an important, effective and integral part of the CAS since, having served under all Curators of Steinhart Aquarium save one: Dr. Alvin Seale.

As an added duty during the War Years, Bob did yeoman's service in the Instrument Shop where he ground and polished thousands of prisms which the Academy produced under a Navy contract. He is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, and the American Fisheries Society. He is an acknowledged expert on fish diseases and aquarium management of fish, reptiles and amphibians. Dr. Earl S. Herald considers him the "finest right hand" that a man could have.

Bob and his wife, Lillian, also of the Academy staff, reside in Paradise Cove where they enjoy the pleasures of gardening and good cookery against a Marin County background.

## NEWS AND NOTES (Cont'd)

Alas, the check for one million dollars was a phoney! Made out on the Fannin State Bank of Houston, Texas to the Academy, the persuasive bit of blue paper was found on the floor of the Aquarium by Barney Conlon. It was signed impressively by one "Jack Dallas Huston Beaumont". Unfortunately, the date on the check was July 4, 1776. Should any Academy member feel a strong urge to make the check good, the telephone number in Golden Gate Park is BAYview 1-5100. We would welcome your call!

Some months ago, Steinhart Aquarium's prized octopus died, and Walter Schneebeili, the Aquarium Collector, knew something should be done about it. In company with five friendly skin-divers, Perry Yelton, Lloyd Gomez, Dennis Sullivan, Fran Holland and Tom Charkins, Walt took off for Stewarts Point, California, where octopi were known to be in residence.

In the clear water around the Point, they discovered an underwater cave with both an in- and an egress. At one, a gunny sack was held securely by three of the divers. Through the other, small bags of granular copper sulphate were lobbed into the octopus' quarters. With that, the eight-armed occupant took off and landed in the gunny sack. With a jerk of the drawstring, the divers had sealed his future fate at the Aquarium. He weighs about 60 pounds and is well worth an early inspection.

Miscellanea: Due to procedural changes, the list of New Members in the Academy is not published this month in the NEWSLETTER. It will appear in the September issue . . . . . Activities in the Academy's Astronomy Section are due to be resumed during the middle of September, details of which will be announced later . . . . . John Thomas Howell of the Department of Botany spent the week of July 18 - 25 collecting in the Mt. Lassen area.

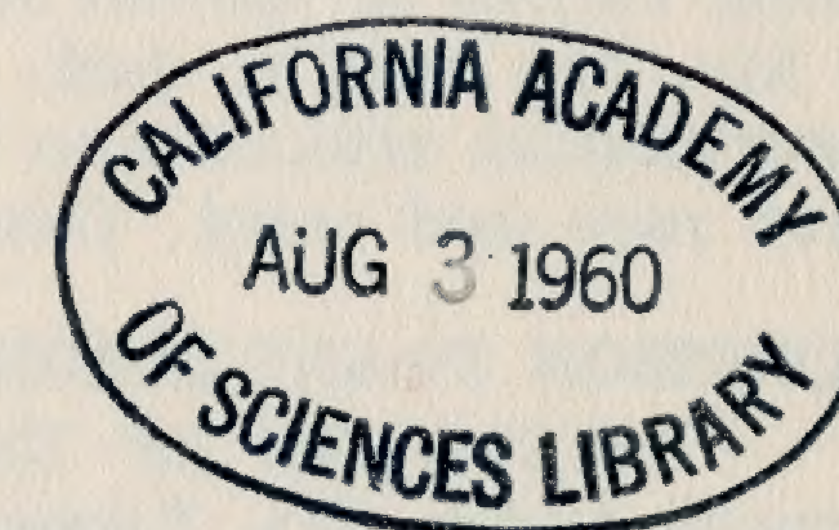
THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
GOLDEN GATE PARK  
SAN FRANCISCO 18

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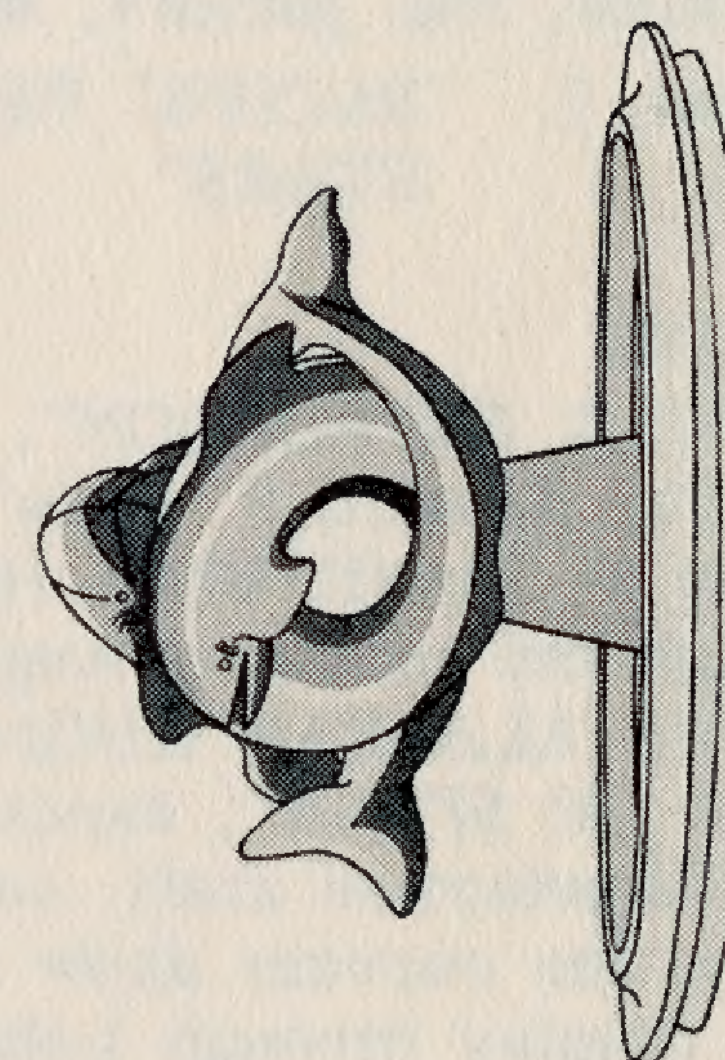
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.  
PERMIT NO. 7544

Ref  
Q 11  
. C22  
no. 248



Academy  
NEWSLETTER



Published Monthly by

THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
GOLDEN GATE PARK  
SAN FRANCISCO 18

No. 248

August, 1960